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Intelligence Panels Try to Plug Leaks

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The chairmen of Senate and House Committees investigating intelligence activities are worried about disclosures of confidential information and are trying to plug the leaks, congressional sources said Tuesday.

The sources suggested that some of the unauthorized disclosures were coming from Administration sources in an oblique effort to show that neither the Senate nor the House committees could be trusted with confidential material.

But the evidence appears to point closer to home, with indications that committee or staff members, piqued at the reluctance of the Administration to release material, were "going public" on their own through selected news leaks.

Rep. Otis G. Pike (D-N.Y.), chairman of the House Select Committee on Intelligence, angrily told reporters last week, "There has been a serious leak and I'm going to find out where."

On the Senate side, a spokesman said that Chairman Frank Church (D-Ida.) also was disturbed about leaks. His committee has received highly sensitive National Security Agency Documents.

The Church committee was to have begun open hearings last week on involvement by the National Security Agency in electronic surveillance of U.S. citizens but deferred the meetings at the request of President Ford, who said the panel was getting into a "very sensitive" area.

It has been reported that the agency in the late 1960s and early 1970s intercepted hundreds of communications involving dissidents and antiwar groups and passed the transcripts on to the CIA and the FBI.

Some of this activity was referred to obliquely in the final June report of the panel headed by Vice President Rockefeller, which investigated CIA domestic activities.

Another leak involves secret testimony last week by Dr. Sidney Gottlieb, a former CIA scientist who was granted immunity for his appearance. Gottlieb was reported to have told the panel that the CIA had sent poison to the Congo (now Zaire) in a plot to assassinate Patrice Lumumba.